

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Office Action.

Summary of the Response

No claims have been amended. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. New claims 16-22 have been added. Claims 3-22 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-9 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (US 6,501,456). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicant does not agree with the rejection, in the interest of forwarding this case to early allowance, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice.

Concerning claim 3-15, referring to Fig. 14 in Saito, the Examiner asserted in the office action that the GS(2n-1) line corresponds to the recited first relaying line”, the GS(2n) line corresponds to the recited “second relay line”, and then pointed to voltage signals in lines GS(2n-1), GS(2n) and GS(2n+1) to correspond to recited “first voltage line”, “second voltage line” and “third voltage line”, respectively. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Independent claims 3 and 15 each recites the following lines, including: first relay line, second relay line, first voltage line, second voltage line, and third voltage line. However, the Examiner only pointed to two lines GS(2n-1) and GS(2n) in Saito, allegedly corresponding to recited first and second relay lines, but three signals on lines GS(2n-1), GS(2n) and GS(2n+1). Signals simply do not correspond to lines.

In addition, claims 3 and 15 each further recites a first voltage line supplied with a voltage through said first relaying line; a second voltage line supplied with a voltage through said second relaying line; a third voltage line supplied with a voltage through said first relaying line. Clearly, the voltage signals referred by the Examiner in Saito would not correspond to recited first, second and third voltage lines supplied with voltages through first and second relay lines.

Still further, even if the third voltage signal on line GS(2n+1) in Saito can somehow be interpreted to be a voltage line, in particular the recited “third voltage line”, and the line GS(2n-1) can somehow be interpreted to correspond to the recited “first relay line”, GS(2n+1) would not be supplied with a voltage through line GS(2n-1), contrary to the recited “a third voltage line supplied with a voltage through said first relaying line” recited in claims 3 and 15.

Accordingly, independent claims 3 and 15, and all their dependent claims, are not anticipated by Saito.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. (US 6,501,456). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Given the traversal of independent claim 3 above, the rejections of claims 10 and 11 are rendered moot.

New Claims

New claims 16-22 have been added to round out the coverage of the present invention. New claims 16-22, correspond to original claims 3-9, but without means recitation. For the same

reasons noted above, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 16-22 are likewise not anticipated by Saito.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:
Replacement Sheets (2)
Annotated Sheets (2)